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## Human Rights Council

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Human Rights Information and Training Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[18 August 2023]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Taiz: Eight Years of Siege and Systematic Killing**

The siege of Taiz by the Houthi militia is entering its ninth year, becoming the longest siege in history, and even the most heinous of all, due to the enormity of the Houthi militia's crimes committed against about 2 million civilians on a systematic and daily basis.

The insistence of the Houthi militias to continue their siege of Taiz is clearly due to sectarian and demographic reasons, and what the militias described to the residents of the city and all their opponents as ISIS and Al-Qaeda and the shedding of the blood of its children its women and all its inhabitants under that category are indicative of its extremist and hostile thinking against the people of the entire region.

### **Why the Siege of Taiz and Not Others?**

The siege of Taiz by the Houthi militias comes because of the strategic importance of Taiz, as it is the governorate that forms a bridge to communicate between North and South Yemen, the governorate to which Bab al-Mandab and the historic port of Mokha belong and share with Hodeidah Governorate, the western coast of Yemen overlooking the Red Sea.

Yemen's population weight is also shared by Taiz with Ibb Governorate, which and Taiz constitute the province of Al-Jand, which is the most population density and stronghold of Yemen with its economic and cultural forces and a population that exceeds more than a quarter of Yemen's population.

Subordinating this geography and population to the Houthi militias would therefore mean putting down living societal resistance. All of this makes the militias' insistence on besieging Taiz suicidal, in addition to the sectarian vision that drives the Houthi project, in its view of those who disagree with it in the sectarian direction that they are) infidels who must be fought, and this view that introduced Yemen has been in the midst of a bloody conflict since 21 September 2014.

After its coup against the state institutions in Sana'a on September 21, 2014, the Houthi militia started to be Storming the rest of the governorates and other cities, where it started its war on Taiz Governorate on March 21, 2015

On July 13, 2015, the militia closed all ports and roads to and from the city of Taiz, and turned the most densely populated city in the country into a closed military zone, and deprived all residents of all their civil, economic, social, even health, human and educational rights.

The militias continued their intransigence by rejecting all international initiatives and invitations from the legitimate government and society the International Humanitarian and Human Rights organizations to lift the siege on the city and continue their continuous violations of the rules and standards international humanitarian law and human rights law, and the restriction of rights and freedoms.

Negotiations and multiple truces failed in lifting the siege on Taiz and all these efforts failed due to the arrogant intransigence of that militia, for the densely populated city to pay the price for its position opposing the Houthi militia in a strict siege, except for a difficult mountain exit to the south, which is also very dangerous. It has become shameful for the international community that nearly four million people are subjected to a systematic murder in front of his sight the world and its hearing.

### **Life Under Siege of Death:**

The militia deliberately targets civilians directly and deliberately through its shells and various heavy weapons, and sniping the continuous towards passers-by and the neighborhood near the Houthi concentration kills every day the souls of children and women whose sin is nothing but their survival in the heart of their besieged city. Life in the city has become very miserable, as it suffers from multiple humanitarian crises that affect daily life and multiply the hassles of living life.

The water crisis is the most prominent of these dilemmas, as the blockade prevented water from reaching 75% of the population and is considered a governorate Taiz is one of the most suffering and affected governorates in the water service, due to the lack of sufficient sources and lack of rain, As well as the Houthi blockade, which exacerbated the suffering and caused the population to line up daily to get a little water drinkable. The total number of wells that feed the city of Taiz is 64, of which 22 are in the city center while the rest are located 42 In the Al-Hayma area, which is under the control of the Houthi militias, and due to the continuation of the siege, the owners of Tankers from going out to that area to fetch water. The price of a water tank with a capacity of 3,000 liters of potable water has reached about 30,000 Yemeni riyals, while the price of a tank truck carrying water with a capacity of 6,000 liters of salty water has reached four times the price, and it is an unstable price as it changes with every collapse of the Yemeni riyal and its rise fuel prices.

The militia also destroyed 50% of the road network by shelling, vandalizing or cutting it off, which led to a high cost of travel, the long distance, the danger of the rough roads that passengers had to pass through, and the transport of goods increased the prices of various goods rose to about 35% in the areas liberated from the Houthi militia and under siege, and Traffic accidents due to off-road use amounted to about 481 accidents, resulting in 374 deaths and 966 injuries. Situation and losses estimated at 475 million dollars, according to the statements of the local authority. Financial losses in revenues amounted to \$228 million per year.

The entrances to the city and the villages surrounding Taiz and many public and secondary roads also suffer from the disaster of mines that the Houthis planted them without maps, causing fatal damage to all civilians who take those roads, as the number of the victims of improvised explosive devices and mines were 1,255 wounded, and 541 killed, including women and children, according to official statistics.

According to an audited approach from the monitoring and documentation team at the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC), more than 8 years of siege of Taiz city, the violations that affected civilians, most of which were committed by the Houthi militia Directly in addition to various parties within the besieged city, which was formed as a result of the militia coup and the spread of The chaos, during the period from March 21, 2015 to June 30, 2023 was as follows:

- The death toll reached 4,105 civilians, including 878 children and 464 women. The number of injured reached 17,948 civilians, including 2,132 children and 2,660 women.
- Tens of thousands of mines planted by the Houthi militias claimed the lives of about 779 civilians, according to their findings.
- The field monitoring team of the center, including 38 children and 23 women, and 1296 civilians, including 71 children and 30 women.
- The abductions amounted to 496 cases of civilians, 175 cases of enforced disappearance, 897 cases of arbitrary detention and 102 cases of torture many of which have led to death or permanent disability, complete paralysis of movement, insanity, and psychological state. There were 97 cases of attacks on civilians, and 78 violations of freedom of opinion and expression.
- According to various reports, the most important of which are the reports of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) monitored by HRITC, The Houthi militia forcibly displaced and displaced about 4,255 families.
- The total number of public properties affected by the violation amounted to 614 properties, 11 buildings were blown up, 87 buildings and public facilities were destroyed, 62 facilities and buildings were completely damaged, and 379 others were partially damaged, 29 public properties were stormed and looted, and 26 public vehicles were damaged. While the total private property that was violated amounted to about 3,387, 169 houses were blown up, 208 houses and private establishments were destroyed, 323 establishments and homes were completely damaged, and 1,941 others were partially damaged.

Center of my Right for Support the Rights and Freedoms, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.